

REID, ALBERT T.

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Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Albert T. Reid

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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DECEMBER, 1947

Merry
Christmas

National Republic

A Monthly Magazine of . . .
Fundamental Americanism



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*Hon. J. Parnell Thomas, of New Jersey,
Chairman of Congressional Committee
on Un-American Activities*

ENEMY WITHIN OUR GATES and EDITORIALS

Meeting of Two Great Emancipators

By F. M. VAN NATTER

ALBERT T. REID, the artist, had finished his painting, "The Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators," and now he stood wedged in the crowd in John Wanamaker's Philadelphia store, waiting for its unveiling by the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Someone said to him, "Mr. Reid, you belong up there on the platform."

The artist shook his head, his long, slender fingers opening and closing as if they clutched for a pencil or brush. Intently he watched the curtain above the fireplace. "No," he murmured, "Wait a minute."

Behind the curtain was his painting, recording the historic event of Abraham Lincoln seeing a printing press for the first time. It had happened in the *Western Sun* office at Vincennes, Indiana, on March 6, 1830. But this was the afternoon of October 13, 1947, and Wanamaker's had built a full size replica, to scale, of that printing office as a setting for the unveiling ceremony.

Philadelphia is a most appropriate place for this affair, Reid thought. Only six blocks down Chestnut Street is Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed proclaiming that all men are created equal—one of Lincoln's guiding principles. In this same hall the Constitution of the United States was signed guaranteeing the freedom of the press.

Newsreel cameramen and still photographers were busy now, training their lenses on the curtain above the fireplace. To the left a thicket of microphones blossomed; to the right sprawled an Adam Ramage hand press, manufactured in Philadelphia about 1815 and like the one which Lincoln saw in Vincennes.

Following the fanfare by the orchestra on the balcony of the Grand Court, the great John Wanamaker organ with its six manuals, 451 stops and 964 controls, played "Hail Pennsylvania." Governor James H. Duff, accompanied by Mayor Bernard Samuels of Philadelphia entered briskly to march music by the Thomas B. Wanamaker

American Legion Post drum and bugle corps. Mr. John Rodman Wanamaker, great grandson of the founder, stood at a microphone to introduce Mayor Samuels.

Photographers' bulbs exploded and newsreel cameras ground.

Still huddled in the crowd, now back under the muzzle of a camera, Albert T. Reid was successfully effacing himself. But his eyes were fixed on the curtain, his slim fingers still opening and closing.

Mayor Samuels introduced Governor Duff, and the ceremony moved forward. "Never before," said the Governor, "has any great people had such privileges as the people of America enjoy today," explaining that this was the beginning of Penn-

sylvania Week and that the way to do most for Pennsylvania was for everyone to do everything possible to better conditions for people in the State. Meanwhile, an aide assigned by Wanamaker's to stay with artist Reid urged, "Mr. Reid, you belong up there on the stage."

Still the artist shook his head. "Not yet. Wait a minute."

Someone overhearing called to a cameraman, "Here is your artist. This is Mr. Reid."

"Get him up on the stage where he will be in the picture," urged the cameraman.

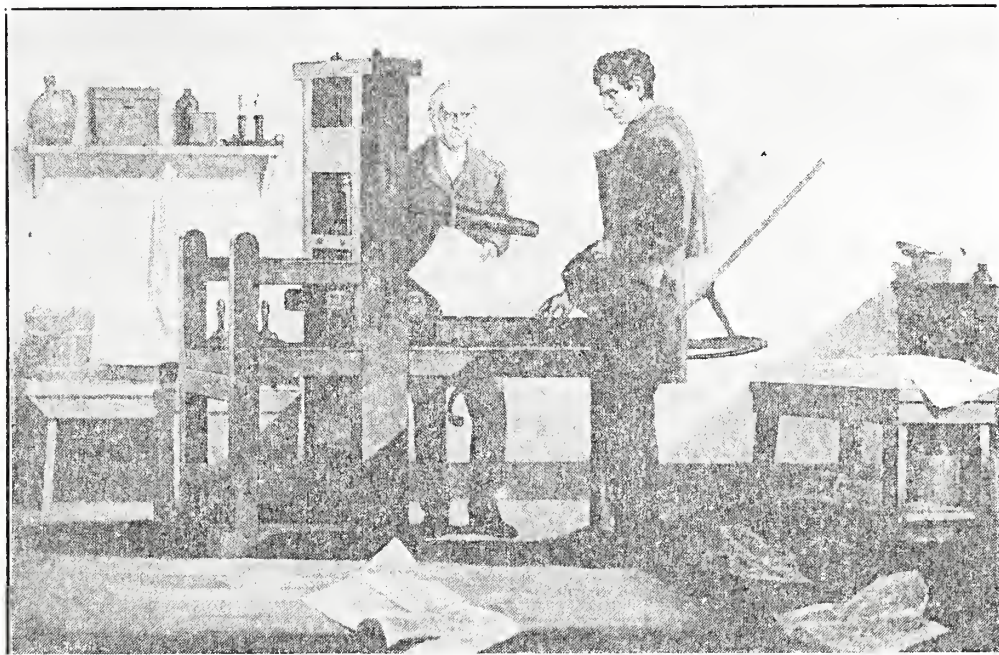
"No," pleaded Reid, drawing further into the crowd and waiting tensely for the unveiling.

Governor Duff finished his speech, then turned to the left and took hold of the unveiling cord.

Slight, 74-year-old Albert T. Reid's five-foot-eight body tensed. He was watching every move of the Governor's hand. He heard the Governor say, "I now give you Mr. Reid's picture, 'The Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators' and dedicate it to the cause of the Freedom of the Press."

The curtain parted.

For a long minute the audience stood silent and Mr. Reid searched the faces of those near him, trying to



The Meeting of Two Great Emancipators—From the Painting by Albert T. Reid

sense their reactions. Then a tumult of applause swept across the room, swelled to a crescendo, and reluctantly died down. The organ, the orchestra, and the drum corps joined in playing, the choir sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

Mr. Reid turned to someone beside him. "My painting looks all right," he said. "I have been wondering what it would look like at this distance under all these glaring lights."

Before him hung his oil painting, 3 by 5 feet, mounted on masonite. It was of the 21-year-old Abraham Lincoln, wearing a red scarf and brown coat. Young Abe was studying the hand press made mostly of mahogany. Behind the press, in faded blue, stood the editor, Elihu Stout. For seven years, off and on, Abe Lincoln had been reading Stout's *Western Sun* in William Jones' store at Gentryville, Indiana. To get a chance to read that paper Abe had done odd jobs for Jones.

At the age of six Lincoln had moved from slave-state Kentucky to free-state Indiana. There he had passed through childhood and adolescence and on into manhood. From the door of his one-room log cabin in the Indiana wilderness he had followed a mud-sled bearing his dead mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, to her hilltop grave. He and his sister, Sarah, at the same cabin door a year later welcomed their stepmother, Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln. Abraham had seen his sister buried in Pigeon Creek Cemetery. He had flat-boated from Indiana to New Orleans and, for the first time, had seen slaves sold. In Indiana he had read for the first time the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. He had told his Pigeon Creek neighbors, "I will study and get ready, and some day my chance may come."

In March, 1830, while the Lincoln family was moving from Indiana to Illinois, one of their ox-drawn wagons needed its tires reset. Thomas Lincoln stopped his caravan at the blacksmith shop near the Vincennes *Western Sun*, and Abe Lincoln wandered into the newspaper office. After watching Mr. Stout operate the press, Abe asked permission to pull the lever.

All this Albert T. Reid saw and painted into the facial expression and posture of Abraham Lincoln.

For 26 years the Lincoln painting had been taking shape in Mr. Reid's mind. It began back in February, 1921, when Mr. Reid's line drawing of the great meeting appeared in the *NATIONAL REPUBLICAN*, a weekly newspaper, predecessor of today's *NATIONAL REPUBLIC* magazine.

What was the genesis of that drawing? Let Albert T. Reid tell it: "George (George B. Lockwood, founder and publisher of the *NATIONAL REPUBLICAN*) wanted me to stay over in Washington for the Lincoln Day dinner. George was to make the talk. 'I want you to be my guest, Albert,' George said to me. While we sat at the table George told me about this tall, young man (Lincoln) going into the *Western Sun* office at

Vincennes and looking at the press and running his fingers lovingly along the chase."

The banquet over, Mr. Reid went back to his room at the Hotel Shoreham, turned a drawer upside down for a drawing board, got out one of his sheets of drawing paper, and, Mr. Reid says, "I penciled a sketch. I was to have breakfast with George next morning, so I took the sketch with me and showed it to him."

Colonel Lockwood asked, "How long will it take you to ink that up?"

"Not very long."

"All right, Albert. I'll take off what we have on the press now and we'll run your drawing in tomorrow's issue."

Mr. Reid returned to his hotel and inked in the drawing. At the bottom of the page he wrote: "The Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators."

Judge Curtis G. Shake of Vincennes owns that original drawing. At present Judge Shake is the Presiding Judge of United States Military Tribunal VI, Nuremberg, Germany.

The Albert Turner Reid who drew that sketch, and who 26 years later painted the picture, has been an artist and newspaper man for 55 years. At one time his drawings were appearing in 360 daily and more than 2,000 weekly newspapers. He owned and published the Albert T. Reid Cartoon Syndicate.

Born in Concordia, Kansas, he is the last of the artists of our Western plains who knew stage coaches. During the early 1870s his father owned a stage coach line operating from Concordia to Waterville, Kansas, where it connected with the old C.B.U.P. railroad. It required four changes of horses and a day and a half to make the 67-mile trip. As a consequence young Albert became a master at drawing a running horse and a turning wheel. He had grown up with them.

IN NEW YORK CITY the artists admire Albert T.

Reid. They tell you of the many kindly deeds he has done to aid struggling, talented artists. They tell you he has fought to get them higher pay for the art they produce, to cut their taxes, get them protection. To artists all over the country Albert T. Reid is a revered painter and friend. They tell you how very helpful the American Artists Professional League, headquarters in Carnegie Hall, has been to them and how Albert T. Reid was brought into the League soon after it was founded. They have set up the Albert T. Reid Medal. The Pan Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, 1915, awarded him a grand prize.

Outstanding as are his painting of Coronado, which at present is in the Broadview Hotel, Wichita, Kansas, and his numerous murals and canvases of Western life, they all are outshone by "The Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators."

Admirers of Lincoln, believers of a free press, all should be ever grateful to Wanamaker's, Philadelphia, for holding the Lincoln picture unveiling ceremony and for buying the Adam (*See PAINTING, page 32*)



Albert T. Reid—From a Charcoal Drawing by William Oberhardt

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he was the only President whose term was sandwiched between two terms of another President. He was the grandson of another President—William Henry Harrison. Benjamin Harrison joined the Union forces in 1862 and not long after became a colonel. He served under Sherman and commanded troops in the Battle of Kenesaw Mountain and several other important engagements. He was breveted brigadier general when he left the service and was cited for "ability, energy and gallantry." While he was not played up as a "hero" in the campaign, the war service did add to his total votes.

Private McKinley, later President McKinley, was carrying hot coffee and food to the men on the firing line when he was 18 years old. This was at Antietam. His bravery at Winchester caused him to be promoted to captain. His conduct at Cedar Creek elevated him to major. His four years in the Army no doubt helped him get votes for Representative in Congress and Governor. War records are always helpful in politics. He had presided at the Republican convention in 1892 and had received a good block of votes on the first ballot. Four years later he was a popular choice and received 661½ votes out of 906 on the first ballot.

The only military "hero" who has become President since the turn of the cen-

tury was Theodore Roosevelt, who rode to military fame with "Teddy's Rough Riders." A keen student of naval history, Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of the Navy under McKinley. When war broke with Spain he organized a cavalry regiment known as "Rough Riders," composed of collegians, sportsmen, cowboys. He was a lieutenant colonel in the outfit which distinguished itself at San Juan Hill. He served as Governor of New York and was nominated Vice President with McKinley. He became President in the first year of their administration when McKinley was assassinated.

The 1948 campaign will be the first one since the close of World War II. Military "heroes" will have a heavy appeal with the voters. Whether the two parties will turn to a man with a great war record will remain a matter for speculation until they assemble in Philadelphia next June.

PAINTING

(Continued from Page 14)

Ramage press. A placard on the fireplace stated: "This setting is the duplicate of the historic shrine to be built in Vincennes, Indiana. The painting and the printing press on display will be sent to the shrine following their exhibition at John Wanamaker's."

As a part of the unveiling ceremony Governor Duff, Mayor Samuels, and Mr. Edward S. Smith (the Reading, Pa., printer who has operated the press for the past three years and from whom Wanamaker's bought it) pulled at the lever as Abe had done on a former Adam Ramage press 117 years before. They were printing the *John Wanamaker Free Press*.

Abraham Lincoln was an heir to Pennsylvania's tradition of freedom. A little while before the American Revolution his ancestors migrated from Berks County to Virginia. A century later President Lincoln went to a military cemetery in Pennsylvania and there delivered the world's most famous oration: The Gettysburg Address.

So for a brief period this October afternoon, 1947, the Two Great Emancipators seemed to become a part of the multitude who listened to Governor Duff say: "Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves and the printing press freed the mind."

PEOPLES IN ASIA

(Continued from Page 22)

Sung while Genghis Khan set himself the task of quelling the desert clans of Hia. The forces of Hia were composed of the remnants of Cathayans, armies of western China, and Turks. The allies fled, completely demoralized. He then turned to the Sung, leading his hordes across the Yellow River. Here he learned of the death of Juchi, one of his sons, in the

steppes. He silently grieved for his first born, and became ill. He gave directions to Tuli as to the conduct of the war against the Sung which he could not complete. He died in the territory of the Sung in 1227. His body was returned to his boyhood home. He directed that Ogotai, another son, be his successor, so he became Kha Khan and reigned moderately for a Mongol.

Karakorum, of the black sands of the Gobi, was the capital. Of all his sons Genghis Khan recognized only the four born of Bourtai as his heirs, and made them Orluks (Eagles): Juchi, Chatagai, Ogotai, and Tuli. Batu, a son of Juchi, founded the golden horde that crushed Russia. Babar, who descended from Chatagai, was the first of the great moghuls of India. Kublai, a son of Tuli, reigned from the China Sea to mid-Europe.

One hundred and forty years after the death of Genghis Khan, his degenerate race, the dynasty of the Yuen, was expelled from China by a revolt of the Chinese (ca. 1368).

(To Be Concluded)

GREATEST FRAUD

(Continued from Page 4)

crimes have even been forgotten by many men—Henry Wallace, Senator Pepper, Congressmen Marcantonio, Sabath and others, please note—who now try to picture Stalin as a genial, kindly soul whose only desire is for world peace and for the happiness and well-being of his people. So often these days we hear Stalin described as a misunderstood man, who, far from entertaining evil designs on others, loves to sit down with his pipe and swap jokes and anecdotes, who so often expresses concern over the suffering of the world's people and who only wants "world peace." But somehow I keep remembering those corpses, and the cruel, bloody, ruthless hand behind them. I also remember a few other facts concerning the methods employed by the new tenant of the Kremlin in perpetrating history's greatest fraud—and we'll take a look at those facts in next month's issue of the NATIONAL REPUBLIC.

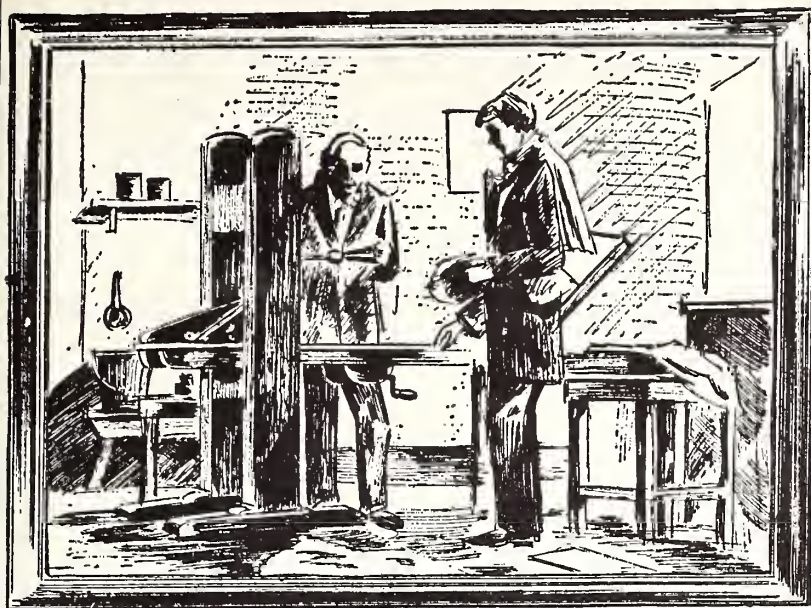
(To Be Concluded)

"MARTYRS"

(Continued from Page 14)

despite the threats leveled against his own life, despite the pressure of the Red International, let justice prevail—and let the convicted murderers die, even though they were high in the ranks of international radicalism.

Even professional sob-sisters and blubbery-brothers should be able to comprehend that, under the American system of justice, a murderer is no less guilty of murder, simply because he is a Bolshevik—instead of a Republican or Democrat.



THIS FINE PICTURE

8 X 10

WILL MAKE A

WELCOME ADDITION TO

YOUR LINCOLN

COLLECTION!!!

Painting of Lincoln And Press Unveiled

A painting depicting Abraham Lincoln's first introduction to a printing press at Vincennes, Ind., in 1830 was unveiled October 13th, by Pennsylvania's Gov. James H. Duff.

The picture, which eventually will go to Vincennes was painted by Albert T. Reid, of New York, well-known former newspaper cartoonist and founder and publisher of the Leavenworth, Kan., Daily Post.

The unveiling of the painting, "The Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators", took place in connection with the John Wanamaker store in Pennsylvania Week."

Displayed in the store along side the painting was an original A. Ramage printing press constructed in Philadelphia about 1815 and obtained by Mr. Reid as an exact replica of the press in Vincennes.

The press which Mr. Lincoln saw when his family stopped in Vincennes for repairs to their wagons was later destroyed by Confederate soldiers.

Commissioned by an Indiana historical society to paint the Lincoln visit to the shop of the Vincennes Western Sun, Mr. Reid began a nation-wide search for a printing press like the one destroyed.

His search ended in Reading, Pa., in a printing shop of Edward Smith. Mr. Smith's press, which also will go to Vincennes for a Lincoln shrine, was one of the first presses made in this country by Adam Ramage, a Scotsman.

DEAR LINCOLN FRIEND:-

It was a great thrill to see Gov. James H. Duff of Pennsylvania unveil the beautiful painting, "THE MEETING of the TWO GREAT EMANCIPATORS," and print a paper from a press just like the one in the picture.

I admired the picture so much and wanted one for my own collection, so, I have had some extras reproduced for my Lincoln friends. This is a genuine glossy photograph 8 x 10, unsurpassed in quality at any price. Picture mailed flat first class by return mail for only 75 cents (25 three cent stamps will be O. K. A nice frame to fit the picture can be secured for less than 50¢ at any variety store.

A special Lincoln item will be ^{sent} extra with all orders received within ten days.

Elbert B. Rose

Elbert B. Rose,
Bridgeton, N. J.

PLEASE SEND

YOUR

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EARLY MAIL!!!

Please send by return mail the picture of The TWO GREAT EMANCIPATORS," 8 x 10 flat. Find 75¢ in stamps in payment. (please print)

Name and address

Reid, Albert T.

Drawer 19A

A. + Sis - R.

